

RESOLUTION 2020-26

A RESOLUTION IMPLEMENTING STAGE I FIRE RESTRICTIONS
COUNTY WIDE IN STILLWATER COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Billings Area Restrictions Group was formed after the 2000 fire season to coordinate fire restrictions and closures on state, federal and private land in a seven-county area surrounding Billings; and

WHEREAS, the Billings Area Restrictions Group has representatives from the Custer National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and the counties of Big Horn, Carbon, Musselshell, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Treasure and Yellowstone; and

WHEREAS, the group works to ensure that any fire restrictions placed in the area are not only warranted, but that they are also consistent and easy to understand; and

WHEREAS, during fire season, the group convenes regularly by phone to discuss current conditions, and carefully considering factors such as weather conditions, fuel moisture, availability of fire suppression resources, and economic impacts, the group determines whether or not restrictions are warranted and then issues one joint message to the public; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has recognized the necessity for fire control measures in Stillwater County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners have received requests from the Fire Warden and Fire Chiefs from the local Fire Departments to implement a restriction on open burning due to the fire danger; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 7-33-2205, MCA, the Board of County Commissioners are hereby authorized to establish fire seasons annually during which no person may ignite or set any forest fire, slash-burning, land-clearing fire, debris-burning fire, or open fire within the county protection area on any forest, range, or crop lands subject to the provisions of this part without having obtained an official written permit to ignite or set such fire from the recognized protection agency for that protection area.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners hereby declares that fire and open burning be restricted under **Stage I Restrictions (see attached)** developed by the Billings Area Restrictions Group which applies to all public and private lands, within Stillwater County **except** lands located within town of Columbus.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 7-33-2206, MCA, any person violating this resolution on public or private properties that fall under the jurisdiction of Stillwater County shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution becomes effective **Thursday July 30, at 12:01 A.M.** and shall remain in effect until such time as it may be amended or rescinded by Board of County Commissioner action.

DATED THIS 28th day of July, 2020.

STILLWATER BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Mark Crago, Chairman


Dennis Shupak


Tyrel Hamilton

ATTEST: 
Heidi L. Stadel, Clerk & Recorder



STAGE I
FIRE RESTRICTIONS

EFFECTIVE 12:01 A.M.
THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2020

Stage I Restrictions: The following acts are prohibited until further notice.

1. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire or campfire except within a developed recreation site, or improved site.
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.

Stage I Exemptions:

1. Persons using a device solely fueled by liquid petroleum or LPG that can be turned on and off. Such devices can only be used in an area that is barren or cleared of all overhead and surrounding flammable materials within 3 feet of the device
2. Any Federal, State, or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
3. All land within a city boundary is exempted.
4. Other exemptions unique to each agency.

For further clarification, please contact the Stillwater County Fire Warden at 321-1997

Violations:

1. You could be fined up to \$500.00 and imprisoned up to 6 months for violating restrictions and closures pursuant to §§7-33-2206 and 46-18-212, MCA.
2. You can be held liable for all suppression costs and damages if you start a fire.

Dated this 28th day of July, 2020.

STILLWATER BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Mark Crago, Chairman


Dennis Shupak


Tyrel Hamilton